

Influenza Facts

Influenza is a major health burden in the United States.

- Influenza is a serious respiratory disease that kills an average of 36,000 persons and hospitalizes more than 200,000 persons in the United States each year.

All healthcare workers should be vaccinated annually to prevent influenza.

- Influenza vaccination is recommended for all healthcare workers to prevent influenza disease and its complications, including death.

Refusing influenza vaccination has consequences for others.

- A person who contracts influenza will shed the virus for 24–48 hours before influenza symptoms appear. Shedding the virus can spread influenza infection to other persons, including patients.
- A person infected with influenza -- even when that person's symptoms are mild -- can spread severe illness to others.
- Refusing vaccination puts others at risk – patients, co-workers, family, and others.

Yearly vaccination is necessary to prevent influenza.

- The strains of virus that cause influenza infection change almost every year, which is why a different influenza vaccine is recommended each year.

Influenza vaccine is safe.

- A person cannot get the influenza disease from the influenza vaccine.